

Arts Advison

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City Arts Advisory Committee and

Visual Arts in Public Places (VAPP) Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2011 • 3:30 - 5:00 pm David Gebhard Public Meeting Room 630 Garden Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Arts Advisory Committee Members Present:

Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair; Suzanne Fairly-Green, Vice-Chair; Robert Adams, Darian Bleecher, Michael Humphrey

Arts Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Roman Baratiak, Judy Nilsen

Visual Art in Public Places Committee Members Present:

Darian Bleecher, Teen Conlon, Suzanne Fairly-Green, Phyllis de Picciotto, Martha Gray, Mary Heebner

Visual Art in Public Places Committee Members Absent: Judy Nilsen, Chair;

Jacqueline Dyson, Susan Keller

Liaisons Present:

None

<u>Liaisons Absent</u>: Frank Hotchkiss (City Council), Paul Zink, (ABR), Judith Cook (Parks & Recreation), (Position Vacant) (HLC)

Staff: Ginny Brush, Executive Director

Rita Ferri, Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections (Absent) Leslee Sipress, Recording Secretary

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair at 3:34 PM and roll was called.
- 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT None**
- 3. ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE Phyllis de Picciotto, Chair

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2011 were approved as submitted (M/S/C: Adams/Humphrey)

B. Director's Report - Ginny Brush

The Committee heard updates on the:

- 1. Status of Arts Collaborative and Community Arts Workshop: Many letters of support have been submitted to the City RDA, as well as a budget and a business plan regarding development and management of the proposed Community Arts Workshop space. The City Redevelopment Agency has set aside \$1 million of funds to the project but the status of RDA funding is in limbo until January of 2012 when the State Supreme Court makes a decision about the future of RDA funding.
- 2. Update on Library Plaza Project: A motion was made to draft a letter of support from Arts Advisory and VAPP to include the following Public Art Elements in the Library Plaza: a) an area for recognition of the City Poets Laureate that would include an informal speaker's platform,

- b) a Fountain with Public Art opportunities, c) an informal Cultural Gathering Space for visitors of the Public Library and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (*M/S/C*:Adams/Gray). Staff will draft the letter.
- 3. Pianos on State Street/New Noise Festival will "kick-off" on November 3rd in conjunction with 1st Thursday through November 6th. The program is a collaborative effort between the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation, SB County Arts Commission, Notes for Notes, New Noise Festival organizers, the SB Education Foundation to promote the annual Instrument Drive. The program seeks donations of instruments for individuals to putt musical instruments into the schools. They have collected over 200 instruments, so far. There will be free music lessons at some locations. Information and updates are available online driven by a "Quick Response" (QR) app directed to a "Pianos on State" Facebook page.
- 4. Americans for the Arts AEP 4 is in its final push to get financial info from cultural arts organizations, a challenging process. Surveys and completion of the financial information for mid- to large-size non-profit cultural organizations have been requested to complete the California Cultural Data Project. A different financial survey will be available for the smaller organizations. Final surveys are due December 17, 2011. The results of the survey will be released in the spring of 2012 and will provide valuable information on the economic impact of arts and cultural organizations in Santa Barbara County.
- 5. The *Brown Bag Arts Lunch* is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th at the Board of Supervisors Conference Room upstairs on the 4th Floor of the County Administration Building (105 E. Anapamu St.) hosted by Supervisors Janet Wolf and Salud Carbajal. Ms. Brush encouraged all to attend. The Conference and Visitors Bureau will provide the group with information on their new Cultural Campaign and Social media efforts.
- 6. The three upcoming City Arts Advisory Committee vacancies were discussed, due to term limits. Interviews by the City Council will convene in November for new appointees for City Arts Advisory and Events & Festivals Committees/
- 7. Cottage Hospital is in the process of completing installation of artwork included in its healing arts collection. There are a number of public art tours being planned. The committees indicated interest in being included in one of the tours if possible.
- 8. Ensemble Theatre will be scheduling tours of The New Vic. Arrangements have been made for the City Arts Advisory and VAPP meeting to take place there on January 19th at 3:15. The meeting will start promptly at 3:30pm.
- **4. VISUAL ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE** Darian Bleecher called the meeting to order at 3:55 pm.
- A. Updates: Presentation on Alma del Pueblo Project Margaret Cafarelli, Urban Developments: Ms. Cafarelli made a presentation on the Alma del Pueblo development project at the corner of Chapala and Victoria Street and provided information on the plan to remove and reinstall the Joseph Knowles "California Today" murals. Drawings of the entire project were shown and questions taken. Explanation was given as to how the murals will be preserved during construction and then installed in their new location with great care. Ms. Cafarelli mentioned that a market once existed in the 1930s where the new market will be located. The project is moving forward with completion expected in approximately 18 months.

- B. Update on Paseo Nuevo Center Court Renovation Trey Lindle, Senior Manager, Property Management, Macerich Corp., Henry Lenny, Architect and Ryan Mills, DMA Owner and Principle Architect: The committee was presented drawings for proposed plans for Public Art elements in the Center Court Plaza of Paseo Nuevo for conceptual approval. This project is still in the planning stages and the committee appreciated the opportunity to give guidance early in the planning/design approval phase. Consensus of the Committee was that there is more work to be done. The following suggestions were made by members of the Committee:
 - No provision was made to make the space more conducive to performances either for the audiences or the performers. Such as platform/stage area or areas where crowds could more easily view the action without disrupting pedestrian traffic flow. Also the placement of either a column or obelisk seems out of place for the size of the space.
 - The Tower element needs work and the figure on top of the tower element needs revisiting; and the multi-colored light display streaming off the downward flowing gush of water is ill conceived.
 - Rather than the current plan for boxwood, more lively plantings around the perimeter of the seating area were recommended
 - The far edge of the seating area should allow circulation onto the upper, higher part of the plaza and consideration of the Center Court space as a public cultural events should not be lost.
- **C.** Staff Reports Ginny Brush, reporting in Rita Ferri's absence.
 - 1. The Herbert Bayer Chromatic Gate (no update at this time).
 - 2. The Douglass Parshall Mural at Santa Barbara Junior High restoration is now complete, furthered by \$5,000 in grant funding from the Pearl Chase Society. Arts Commission staff arranged for signage to be presented at a Board meeting of PCS acknowledging the organizations support for the project.
 - 3. Historic Cultural Arts District exhibition updates:
 - a. Jardin de las Granadas installation will be kept in place until further notice by agreement with Francis Michael Dawson, artist, until such time as funding and selection can be completed for another exhibition.
 - b. Channing Peake Gallery *Few Chosen by Many: A Berkus Selection* will continue until January 24, 2012.

D. Announcements

- 1. Robert Adams commented that the Santa Barbara Beautiful Annual Awards of September 25, 2011 went "great".
- 2. Mary Heebner recommended the group see the exhibit *View from Here* at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art featuring local artists on display until January 1, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm. The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2011 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room. There will be no meeting in December. The annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 1, 2011 at which time the Arts Commission's *Leadership in the Arts Award* will be announced.